

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ATHENS 02538 011921Z

45

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 EB-07 SIL-01 LAB-04 IO-10 ACDA-05 SAM-01 /085 W

----- 060452

P R 011708Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8136

INFO SECDEF

CSAF

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN

7206TH AIR BASE GROUP

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

AAFES EUROPE (CP)

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 2538

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, GR

SUBJECT: PARLIAMENTARY DEPUTIES PETITION MINISTERS OF  
DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR REMOVAL FROM  
GREECE OF AMERICAN AIR FORCE OFFICER

REF: ATHENS 7696, OCTOBER 23, 1974

1. FOLLOWING APPEARANCE OF INACCURATE STORY IN MARCH 29  
TO VIMA STATING THAT US FORCES PERSONNEL HAD DISCIPLINED  
100 GREEK EMPLOYEES FOR TAKING PART IN GREEK INDEPENDENCE  
DAY CEREMONIES, FOUR NEW DEMOCRACY (ND)  
PARLIAMENTARY DEPUTIES RAISED QUESTION IN PARLIAMENT  
MARCH 31 AIMED AT SEEKING "IMMEDIATE REMOVAL FROM GREECE"  
OF LT. COL. PAUL WOOD, USAF, WHO IS LOCAL COMMANDER  
OF ARMY-AIR FORCE EXCHANGE SERVICE  
EUROPE (AAFES). THE DEPUTIES ALLEGED THAT WOOD HAD  
PENALIZED GREEK EMPLOYEES FOR HAVING TAKEN PART IN A  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ATHENS 02538 011921Z

CELEBRATION OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY EARLY LAST WEEK.

BY DOCKING THEM FOR TWO HOURS PAY. MOST GREEK LANGUAGE  
NEWSPAPERS APRIL 1 CARRIED STORY OF PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION  
AS SHORT BACKPAGE ITEM.

2. PARLIAMENTARY ACTION WAS UNDOUBTEDLY THE RESULT OF  
PRESSURE BY LEADERSHIP OF A GREEK LABOR UNION (I.E. UNION  
OF EMPLOYEES OF US FORCES) HEADQUARTERED AT 7206TH AIR BASE  
GROUP ATHENS. (SEE ATHENS 8005, NOVEMBER 7, 1974, FOR PRIOR  
CONTROVERSY GENERATED BY SAME UNION.) FACTUAL BACKGROUND  
OF CASE (WHICH FOLLOWS) IS WIDELY AT VARIANCE WITH BOTH UNION  
AND PARLIAMENTARIANS' ALLEGATIONS. IN FACT, 7206TH ABGRP  
COMMANDER PREEMPTED GREEK UNION REQUEST THAT GREEK EMPLOYEES BE  
ALLOWED TO ARRANGE A PARTY ON AIR BASE PREMISES  
MARCH 24 TO CELEBRATE GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY  
BY ORGANIZING HIS OWN PARTY FOR THEM.  
ALL GREEK EMPLOYEES ON BASE PRESISES WERE ALLOWED TO ATTEND  
PARTY DURING WORKING HOURS AND WITHOUT LOSS OF PAY. GREEK  
EMPLOYEES OF SMALL AAFES OUTLET LOCATED ON BASE ALSO WERE  
INCLUDED IN INVITATION. AT TIME INVITATIONS ISSUED, IT  
MADE EXPLICITLY CLEAR THAT THEY ONLY COVERED GREEK  
EMPLOYEES ON BASE. DESPITE LATTER CLARIFICATION,  
NUMBER OF OTHER GREEK EMPLOYEES OF AAFES IN ATHENS  
AREA WORKING IN SUBURBAN OFFICE HEADQUARTERS, OR IN  
THE MAIN DOWNTOWN DEPARTMENT STORE, EXPRESSED DESIRE  
TO ATTEND CELEBRATION. ALTHOUGH THEIR SUPERVISORS  
MADE PROVISION TO PERMIT THEIR ATTENDANCE THEY ALSO  
MADE CLEAR THAT DUE TO THEIR OWN UNITS' REGULAR  
WORKDAY SCHEDULES (STORE AND OFFICE MUST BE MANNED)  
SUCH ATTENDANCE, IN FAIRNESS TO THOSE WHO COULD NOT  
BE RELEASED, WOULD HAVE TO BE ON LEAVE-WITHOUT-PAY  
BASIS. NOTE: UNION LEADERSHIP, HOWEVER, ON ITS  
OWN INITIATIVE TOLD THESE SAME EMPLOYEES THAT THEY WOULD BE PAID  
FOR THAT PERIOD. (COMMENT: IT SHOULD  
BE NOTED THAT AIR BASE CELEBRATION WAS NOT  
HELD ON GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY ITSELF, I.E.  
MARCH 25, BUT ON PREVIOUS DAY WHICH IS NEITHER A  
LEGAL HOLIDAY NOR AN ADMINISTRATIVELY DESIGNATED  
HOLIDAY.)

3. IN INITIAL PRESS REPORTS ON INCIDENT FACTS WERE  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ATHENS 02538 011921Z

GARBLED, E.G. TO VIMA MARCH 29 ALLEGED THAT "COMMANDER  
OF 7206TH AIR BASE HAD PENALIZED 100 OF HIS OWN  
GREEK EMPLOYEES FOR ATTENDING NATIONAL HOLIDAY  
CELEBRATION". ENGLISH LANGUAGE ATHENS DAILY POST  
MARCH 30 SUBSTANTIALLY REPEATED SAME ERRONEOUS STORY.  
IN FACT, NO EMPLOYEES ON AIR BASE WERE INVOLVED IN  
COMPLAINT AND FURTHER THERE WAS A TOTAL OF ONLY  
SOME 28 GREEK EMPLOYEES FROM AAFES UNITS OUTSIDE THE

AIR BASE WHO ACTUALLY CAME TO CELEBRATION. INTERESTINGLY, NONE OF THESE 28 COMPLAINED DIRECTLY TO THEIR AMERICA SUPERVISORS.

4. MID-DAY APRIL 1, UNION REPRESENTATIVE TOGETHER WITH OFFICIAL MINISTRY OF LABOR (MRS. KARAVIDA) MET (AT THEIR REQUEST) WITH AAFES UNIT COMMANDER. MINISTRY LABOR OFFICIAL ADMITTED THAT ACTION OF COMMANDER WAS COMPLETELY LEGAL AND ALSO STRESSED SHE NOT AT MEETING IN OFFICIAL CAPACITY, BUT ONLY IN UNOFFICIAL STATUS TO SEE IF SETTLEMENT COULD BE ARRANGED. SHE SUGGESTED THAT A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION MIGHT BE THE AWARDED OF TWO HOURS PAY TO THE 28 PERSONS INVOLVED (EVEN THOUGH THERE NO LEGAL OBLIGATION) SINCE THIS WOULD "CREATE FAVORABLE IMPRESSION BOTH ON THE GREEK PEOPLE AND ON THE GOVERNMENT".

5. APPEARANCE OF ORIGINAL PRESS STORY ON MARCH 29 LED AMBASSADOR CALOGERAS'S, CHIEF GREEK NEGOTIATOR IN BILATERAL TALKS, TO TELEPHONE EMBASSY POL/MIL OFFICER, WHO UNDERTOOK TO ASCERTAIN FACTS, DID SO, AND THEN INFORMED CALOGERAS OF ACTUAL HAPPENINGS. CALOGERAS EXPRESSED REGRET THAT CONTROVERSIAL EVENT HAD TAKEN PLACE AT A TIME WHEN ADVERSE PUBLICITY WAS UNHELPFUL TO BOTH GREEK AND U.S. INTERESTS. ON APRIL 1, DMITRI MANOLATOS, AMERICAN DESK OFFICER, FONOFF, BASING HIS REMARKS ON APRIL 1 PRESS STORIES AND NOTING THE LIKELIHOOD OF FONOFF RECEIPT OF QUERIES REGARDING SUBJECT MATTER, ALSO RAISED ISSUE WITH POL/MIL OFFICER. LATTER EXPLAINED FACTS OF SITUATION, INDICATED THAT NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS WERE SUBSTANTIALLY INACCURATE, AND NOTED THAT, LIKE OTHER GREEK UNIONS, UNION OF EMPLOYEES OF U.S. FORCES SINCE JULY 1974 HAD BEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 ATHENS 02538 011921Z

ATTEMPTING TO EXPAND ITS MEMBERSHIP AND INFLUENCE, BUT UNLIKE OTHER UNIONS WAS EXPLOITING PATRIOTIC THEMES IN THIS EFFORT.

6. COMMENT. GREEK UNION IN QUESTION SEEMS TO BE REPEATING ITS ATTEMPTS OF LAST FALL (REFTEL) TO EXPLOIT FOR ITS OWN ENDS (E.G. BUILD UP PRESTIGE AND POWER BASE) UNFAIR & INACCURATE ASCRIPTIONS OF "ANTI-GREEK" SENTIMENTS TO VARIOUS AMERICAN MILITARY PERSONNEL WITH WHOM IT DEALS. WHAT GIVES THIS CASE ADDITIONAL SIGNIFICANCE THIS TIME IS THAT FOUR DEPUTIES OF GOVERNMENT'S OWN PARTY HAVE IN EFFECT BACKED THESE UNSUBSTANTIATED ALLEGATIONS ON FLOOR OF PARLIAMENT. ONE DEPUTY, MILTIADES EVERT (ATHENS AREA) WAS QUOTED IN PRESS AS SAYING, "IT IS SAD THAT OFFICERS OF THE AMERICAN ARMED SERVICES MANIFEST

SUCH EXPRESSIONS ON GREEK SOIL EVEN AS TO SUCH A  
SACRED GREEK THEME (I.E. INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION).  
KUBISCH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PERSONNEL, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, MILITARY BASES, LABOR DISPUTES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 01 APR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** buchantr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975ATHENS02538  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750112-0989  
**From:** ATHENS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750495/aaaadije.tel  
**Line Count:** 172  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 ATHENS 7696, 75 OCTOBER 23, 75 1974  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** buchantr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 02 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <02 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <08 OCT 2003 by buchantr>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PARLIAMENTARY DEPUTIES PETITION MINISTERS OF DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR REMOVAL FROM  
**TAGS:** ELAB, MARR, GR, US, AAFES, (WOOD, PAUL)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006